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# The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 363. DECEMBER, 1936.

FATHERHOOD. MOTHERHOOD. CHILDHOOD.

"This child is set for the falling and rising again of many in Israel," Luke II, 34.

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YORK STREET N.S. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE, 1936

TWO SECTIONS OF THE CONGREGATION IN THE ULSTER HALL.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Again at the close of another year we have to thank our friends for their loyal support. We appreciate the continued patronage of our advertisers, and trust that it has been "worth while" to make their appeal through these pages. We are especially grateful to our friends in the congregations, who do their best to get a sale for the magazine. The manager deserves our best thanks for the responsible work that he undertakes. We do not forget our worthy printer for the excellent form in which he produces the magazine. But, our readers should remember that this magazine belongs to the Church, and that their goodwill and help are indispensable.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

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**Ballyhemlin**—The boiler of the heating apparatus, which was put in above 35 years ago has become defective, and has had to be replaced with a new one. This unlooked-for expense has been promptly responded to by the congregation.

* * *

**All Souls, Belfast**—A Congregational Party was held in Rosemary Hall, Elmwood Avenue, on Friday, 13th November, at 8 o'clock, to welcome the Rev. W. Howard Payne as the new minister. At the reception following the ordination on Tuesday, October 20th, Miss Mainwaring representing the Pennygraig Congregation S. Wales, of which Mr. Payne had been a member, presented him with a reading desk. A Sale of Work and Indoor Fair was held in Rosemary Hall on Wed. 25th November, from 3 till 10 p.m. The Sale was opened by Miss E. Montgomery, with Miss McCready presiding. A strong appeal had been made on behalf of the small band of workers who are always doing their utmost for the Church, and who among other activities try to get a sale for this magazine, for help of all kinds in this year's Sale.

There must be others who feel that they could do more for the Church and who are interested enough in its activities to come forward to help. The Rev. W. Howard Payne administered the first Sacrament of the Lords' Supper in his ministry on November 1st. A cordial invitation had been accorded to all who would reverently approach the Table.

The Badminton Club meets each Monday from 6-30 till 11 p.m.

* * *

**York Street** Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation takes a large number of copies of this magazine every month. On Sunday evening, November 1st, every copy available was disposed of in ten minutes.

* * *

**Ministers' Meeting**—The 303rd was held on November 2nd, in Belfast, the host being the Right Rev. Dr. A. L. Agnew. There was a good attendance, and a very happy afternoon was spent.

* * *

**Ballee**—Harvest Thanksgiving Services, which were held at Ballee on October 18th and 19th, were most successful. The Meeting House was decorated with produce of field, garden and orchard, the entire scheme reflecting very high credit on the ladies who carried out this work.

The Sunday services were conducted by the minister. A large congregation assembled in the evening when the newly installed Calor Gas lighting system was dedicated by Mrs. Simpson. Solos were rendered to splendid advantage by Mrs. Watts, of Ardglass, and the Rev. J. Glynne Davies of Comber. The choir's tuneful rendering of the Anthem, "Fear not, O Lord," was greatly appreciated. Mr. Robert McCullen officiated at the organ.

There was a continuation of the Harvest Services on the Monday evening, when an inspiring address was given by the Rev. W. H. Townley Tilson, of Greyabbey. An anthem was again acceptably rendered by the choir. The soloist was Mr. R. Heyburn.

The presence of friends from neighbouring congregations were much appreciated. The Ballee congregation acknowledges with thanks the valuable assistance given by friends who either acted as Collectors or sent donations in aid of the Lighting Fund.

The Harvest produce was given to the Down County Infirmary.

A Whist Drive was held in the School-room on October 9th, when the accomodation was insufficient to meet the demands made upon it. Cordial thanks are due to the ladies who organised the event, and to Mr. R. Stitt, who acted at M.C.

Special mention must be made of a most enjoyable Whist Drive held at Ballee House, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Stitt. The proceeds of both Drives were in aid of the Lighting Fund.

On the evening of November 8th, a well attended Remembrance Service was held.

A goodly muster of Ex-Servicemen paraded, and a wreath in memory of the Fallen was laid by two of their number. By the kind permission of the officer commanding the 2nd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment two buglers were present, and gave dignity to the service by sounding "The Last Post," and "The Rèveillé." During the course of the service a violin obbligato was rendered by Miss Davidson, and an augmented choir sang Elgar's "Land of Hope and Glory" to splendid effect, the solo part being taken by Miss Davidson. Mr. R. McCullen officiated at the organ. The service was conducted by the minister. The singing of the National Anthem and the recession of Ex-Servicemen concluded an impressive service.

* * *

**Dromore**—Armistice Sunday, November 8th, The Right Rev. Dr. A. L. Agnew, moderator, preached acceptably before a full congregation at morning service. The local British Legion men were present, and the collection for the Earl Haig Fund amounted to £17.

* * *

**Moneyrea.**—The Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday, October 4th, morning and evening, and also on the following Monday evening. The Church was beautifully decorated with flowers, leaves, fruit and vegetables for the occasion by the ladies of the congregation, assisted by the gentlemen. The services on Sunday were conducted by the Rev. W. H. Townley Tilson, M.A., Greyabbey, whose eloquence and attractive sermons were highly appreciated by large congregations. Rev. J. D. Davies officiated on Monday evening. The Services were well attended. The singing throughout was hearty and inspiring. The choir rendered in excellent style the anthems "And God Said" and "The Earth is the Lord's." The soloists—Miss M. M'Farland, Miss Marie Bailie, Miss Maggie M'Farland, Mr. John M'Clure—deserve great praise for their good work, and so does Mrs. M'Cartney, the organist, who was responsible for their training.

* * *

January, 1937, number published on the **Fourth** Saturday of December. Copy should be in before December **19th** at the latest. Editor: Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

**Comber Women's League**—The branch commenced its session in October. There was a good attendance at the opening meeting including many young folk who are admitted as junior members until they reach the age of 16. A demonstration of painting on materials by the "Solaqua" method was given by Miss Dale. A report of the Annual Meeting held in London in May was given by the Comber delegate, Mrs. Glynne Davies.

A film entertainment under the auspices of the Religious Film Society and "The Christian World" was given in the schoolroom on Oct. 28th. These films can be thoroughly recommended to any of our churches. The acting is reverent and worthy of the schemes, the music is beautiful—the scenery is excellent and the stories are both awe-enspiring and thrilling. Educational—travel—temperance films can be obtained through "The Guild of Light."

The November meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by a good audience.

Miss Flora Osborne (Booten) gave a lesson on how to seat stools or chairs with sea-grass. It was very practical and Miss Osborne's demonstration was easy to follow and should be of good service. Mrs. Gardiner, B.A., of Holywood, gave us an intellectual treat with her informative talk on her recent trip to Rhodesia. Touching on farming matters as she did—the interest on home affairs was raised and she held the attention of all the members—both young and o'd. Articles of native handwork from Rhodesia were shown and admired. Mrs J. L. O. Andrews proposed a vote of thanks to the various speakers, this was seconded by Mrs. David Munn and passed by acclamation.

Following the tea—recipes and helpful hints on baking were given by Mrs. Robert Ferguson (Ballyrainey) and by Mrs. H. McCormick—both these ladies are renowned for their bread and cake making. This concluded a very enjoyable and helpful evening.

* * *

**Raloo**—Harvest Services were held on Sunday, 25th October. The Church was beautifully decorated for the occasion with the emblems of harvest. The ladies assisted by the Sunday School Scholars who performed the work of adorning the Church are to be congratulated on the charming result of their labours. The special preachers were the Moderator Dr. A. L. Agnew and Rev. J. McCleery, Newry, whose scholarly and helpful discourses were highly appreciated by large congregations. The sweet voices of the Sunday School Children who sweetly sang

the well known harvest hymns, was a feature of attraction at both services. The minister and committee desire to thank all who contributed to the success of the event, including Dr. Agnew for his encourging and stimulating remarks to the congregation, in his role of Office as Moderator of our Church,

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**Antrim.** Harvest Thanksgiving was held on Sunday, October 25th. Preacher: Rev. John Barron, ex-Moderator, and Editor of the "N.S. Presbyterian." The Meeting House was filled to its utmost capacity, chairs being placed in the aisle. Mr. A. Taylor, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., was the organist. Solos were beautifully rendered by Mrs. Taylor, and the singing hearty and of excellent quality, led by an augmented choir. The congregation was representative of all denominations. Most of the collectors were from other Churches in the town. The collection amounted to £7 10s.

* * *

**Domestic Mission.** — On Saturday, an enthusiastic band of our young people transformed the Church interior with grain, vegetables, fruit, and flowers, the gift of mission friends and members, for the annual Harvest Services on Sunday. The attendances were good, particularly in the afternoon, when the seating capacity was taxed to accommodate the large audience present. The helpful addresses of Rev. W. Howard Payne and Rev. F. Munford, B.A., were greatly appreciated. Appropriate hymns were rendered by the choir under the leadership of Mrs. J. Sherlock. Miss Cathcart as soloist in the afternoon, and Mrs. Sherlock in the evening enriched the services by their inspiring renderings. To all those who helped to make the services a success we tender sincere thanks. At the opening meeting of the winter session of the Debating Society, Mr. Henderson was the special speaker. The subject, which was most original, had an old-world background, "The Fall of Jericho," which the speaker, in his own inimitable way, modernized to teach some very practical lessons. A keen discussion followed. "The Problem of World Peace" will be discussed by Mr. J. Rodgers at next meeting. The Sunday School pupils and teachers spent a happy afternoon in games and singing, followed by tea, when the first social of the season was held on Saturday afternoon, 10th. As the cold weather is at hand, we could use supplies of clothing, men's and women's shoes and children's garments. Will any friends who have parcels please leave at Depository, or notify the Missioner, who will have them called for.

* * *

**Holywood.** — The congregation here have recently had the encouraging, but unfortunately unusal, experience of having their Church crowded on three Sundays in succession. The first occasion was at the Harvest Thanksgiving Services on the last Sunday in October. There was a good congregation in the morning, when the minister (Rev. E. Lockett) officiated, and at the evening service, with Rev. Dr. Agnew as the preacher, the building was packed. The Children's Service in the afternoon was conducted by Mrs. A. W. Gardiner, B.A. The Church was beautifully decorated, and special music was rendered by an augmented choir under the direction of the organist (Mr. E. G. Keers). On the following Sunday evening, 1st November, the local Orangemen attended the Evening Service for the first time since the ministry of Rev. Dr. Mellone. The Church was again filled, and the old gallery had to be used. The Service was conducted by the Minister, and the collection for the Lord Enniskillen Memorial Orphan Society amounted to over £8. On November 8th (Remembrance Sunday) the members of the Holywood Branch of the British Legion, with the Girl Guides, again visited the Church, and at the close of the Service the ex-service men observed their own moving commemoration of their comrades who made the supreme sacrifice in the war. The Roll of Honour was called by the Chairman of the Branch (Capt. Creighton). A wreath was placed by Mrs. White (a war widow), and the "Last Post" was sounded, followed by the two minutes' silence and the Reveille. The collection for the Earl Haig Poppy Fund amounted to £11 10s 6d.

**First Presbyterian Church, Belfast**—The Sale of Work on November 17th, was a great success. The Central Hall was crowded for the opening ceremony which was performed by Miss M. Duffin of Ardnavally, Belfast, with William Andrews, Esq., of Comber in the chair, supported by the Rev. R. Nicol Cross and Mrs. Nicol Cross. The speeches they made were excellent in their appropiateness and brevity. Mr. Andrews in the course of his remarks recalled our debt to our Fathers who had gone before us for what they had done in the Non-Subscribing Church and the obligation that lay on the present generation to maintain what they had won for it. In introducing Miss Duffin he spoke of her continued interest in the First Church which her aunts, the Miss Riddels, had loved and always generously supported, and alluded to the beautiful Memorial Window in the Church which Miss Duffin and her brothers had erected in pious memory of them.

Miss Duffin in a charming little speech declared the Sale open, and wished it all success, commenting especially on the need of general and united effort on the part of the Congregation as a whole to shoulder burdens that in former days were considerably lightened by the liberality of a few wealthy members, now departed. More paticularly she stressed the responsibility of the young taking their place in support of the church, and realising the duty that lay on them, and paid a graceful compliment to the Needlework Guild and Mrs. Nicol Cross on their 18 month's work. Then Peggy Kennedy presented a bouquet on behalf of the Stall-holders.

The minister in proposing a vote of thanks to the Opener and Chairman on behalf of the Stall-holders, in happy terms expressed cordial appreciation of their services, which was echoed by the large company assembled. He specified the object of the Sale to raise £450 for structural alterations and renovations of the Central Hall, including re-wireing the Electrical Installation, making an emergency Exit and Stairway, and repairs and repainting externally and internally, with the introduction of emergency Gas Lighting. All these had been carried out in the last two years, and the front of the church repainted. He thanked all the ladies who had worked so excellently, and the Stall-holders, including the Women's League who saw to the Refreshments, the donors to the appeal, and welcomed the ministers and friends from other of our churches and from outside who were present, reminding them that the Central Hall served the Non-Subscribing Church as a sort of permanent headquarters, for the holding of many of their official and committee meetings throughout the year, and in this respect was of real service to the whole of our religious community in Ulster, and its churches and cause.

It was announced at the end of the day, on behalf of the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. William McRobert, that the total proceeds of the effort amounted to £400 approx. Mrs Nicol Cross had still a considerable sum in hand from the Needlework Guild, which will probably add another £100 to the £150 they had passed to the Treasurer prior to the Sale, when the account of private sales is made up.

The Results were as follows —Donations £129 14s. 0d., Needlework Guild (Mrs. Nicol Cross, President) £191 12s. 5d., Cake Stall (Mrs. H. J. F. Orr, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Chambers) £40 0s. 0d., Greengrocery Stall (Mr. J. Wilkinson) £12 5s. 4d., Refreshments (Women's League, Pres. Miss Armstrong) £8 18s. 9d., Young People's Stall (Pres., Mr. J. W. Tate) £5 9s. 9d., White Elephant (Mrs. W. Newman, Mrs. Tate) £4 9s. 4d., Flowers (Miss Rollins, President) £4 0s. 0d., Gypsy Troupe £2 1s. 6d. The Grand Total will be approximately £500.

* * *

We are happy to be able to present our readers with a photograph taken during York Street Anniversary Service. The photo was taken without flash-lights during the Service, which shows the platform party and a portion of the congregation. This is the tenth occasion on which this Service has been held in the Ulster Hall. It is estimated that as many are turned away as gain admission, and our photo gives some idea of how the Hall is crowded. People can be seen standing even in the corridors. Such a Service is an inspiration to us all.

* * *

The year that is now closing—1936—will remain as historic in the records of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, because of the first meeting of the Synod to be held in Dublin. The warm hospitality of the Dublin congregation, and the devoted efforts of both the Rev. and Mrs. E. Savell Hicks to further the happiness of all the representatives and visitors during those two days, deserves recognition by the bestowal of any honour which is within the power of the Synod.

Think of two circular pieces of glass, one coloured blue, the other yellow. Lay one partly over the other, and the middle colour will be green. Let blue represent "Unitarianism" and yellow "Orthodoxy," then the green intersection will represent "Non-Subscribing Presbyterianism" or "Liberal Christianity."

* * *

In the "Inquirer and Christian Life" of October 31st, 1936, reference was made to a "recognition service," in which eleven were admitted to the ministry of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, and in brackets the words are added "and I must also add to the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church." Any of these eleven may be recognised as eligible; but, they can only be admitted into the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Ministry through the Presbyteries. If not previously ordained, they will have to be ordained. That is a point on which, as Presbyterians, we will not yield an inch.

* * *

Belfast can show a good record in collections. Knock Road Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 18th, took up £949. An appeal had been made for £1,000 to clear off a debt on the Church Hall. The Moderator was the preacher on that occasion.

## OBITUARY.

### Miss Alicia Christina Barry, Late of Rose Cottage, Ballyministra, Killinchy.

Miss Barry had lately removed to 11, Cyprus Avenue, Belfast, and during the week before last was unfortunately knocked down owing to a motor accident, when she was removed to the above address. Later her doctor advised that she should be removed to a Nursing Home owing to symptoms of erysipelas developing, where gradually she appeared to be recovering, but on Sunday night, November 8th, she began to grow worse, and she died during the night. Miss Barry was the last of her family who preceded her in Ballyministra, Killinchy. The funeral took place on Tuesday, November 10th, when a large number of relatives assembled at 10 o'clock. The Rev. R. N. Cross, First Church, Belfast, conducted the religious service at 11, Cyprus Avenue. Afterwards the funeral proceeded to Tullynakill Graveyard, Co. Down, to be interred among the graves of a large number of her forebears. The day was a very wet one, and her minister, Rev. D. J. Williams, conducted the service at the graveside. Much sympathy was extended to Mrs. Ferguson and Miss Ferguson and other relatives, who were much concerned on account of the termination of the accident.

### Mr. John M. Bloxsom.

The sympathy of the Mountpottinger congregation is extended to the relatives of this member, who passed away at Purdysburn Fever Hospital on November 11th. His connection with Mountpottinger commenced some two years ago following his marriage to one whose whole life has been bound up with the Church. To his widow (nee Jessie Mitchell) the blow is a severe one, following as it does the death of her mother during October, and we trust that she will be granted strength to bear this double affliction. Interment took place at Knockbreda Cemetery on November 14th, when Rev. F. Munford, B.A., performed the last rites.

E. R. J.

### Mr. William Henry Kennedy, Ballycarry.

After several years of suffering, patiently borne, Mr. William Henry Kennedy, of Ballycarry, has passed to his rest. Mr. Kennedy belonged to an old Ballycarry family. He leaves a widow, sons and daughters, and grandchildren to mourn his loss. His funeral was largely attended. The services at the home and graveside being conducted by his minister, the Rev. W. G. Marsden, assisted by the Rev. A. T. Rentoul, who represented the friends of the neighbouring Church.

## THE DIVINE WISDOM.

Psalm xxiii, 5.—"Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me; thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

## RELIGION AND REALITY.

(Address delivered by Rev. H. J. Rossington, M.A., B.D., of Church of the Messiah, Birmingham, at the United Service in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, on Sunday evening, November, 22nd, 1936.)

Fourteen years ago this hall recorded the remarkable fulfilment of an act of faith. A packed audience, such as few Unitarians had dared to dream of, had responded to the challenging invitation of the Laymen's League to make united witness for Unitarianism. A coarse and continued attack on the latter had evoked wide sympathy for its representatives, and the Ulster Hall gathering was its gratifying expression.

Yet other reasons than that of correcting misrepresentation were operative to make public and positive views of our faith timely and needful. It is good to let thoughtful outsiders know the tenets of our Christian faith, but it is better to be under the continued necessity of re-stating them for ourselves. Statements of belief are at the best only approximate, and must ever be subject to re-consideration in the light of progressive revelations of truth.

It is by this approach I propose to deal with the question of "Religion and Reality" to-night. Without any desire to add to the definitions of religion, all too numerous and inadequate already, it may contribute to clarity of thought if I provisionally describe religion as "man's attempt to get at reality and to enter into harmony therewith." This two-fold endeavour is not in itself peculiar to religion. Rather is the latter a co-partner with science, philosophy, and art in a common enterprise. Each of these attempts at human expression is concerned with the real—be it Truth, or Beauty or Goodness.

Consider the first demand made upon man by the universe. It is that he should feel at home in it; that its conditions should conduce to his bodily satisfactions, that it should be susceptible to his dawning intelligence, responsive to his spiritual awareness. Unless the universe could satisfy this desire on man's part to have place and power within the economy of nature, man's sense of security, no less than his perception of reality, would have been impossible. To be a stranger in a strange land is a hard fate, but to be an alien in an unfriendly and unintelligible universe could have been of all things the most terrible.

Fortunately it was not left to man to feel such alienation. Beginning with himself, that part of reality which he first knew, he established increasing relations with the world around. The history of science is the marvellous record of man's developing mind attuned to natural facts and forces; the priceless treasure-house of literature, art and music testifies to human ability to register Nature's sights and sounds, while philosophy gives evidence of man's perception of the unity underlying the world's multifarious facts and forces.

But since man's mind could look before and after it was not content with surface facts, however varied and impressive; it sought to penetrate to underlying principles, to correlate a spirit within himself to the spirit which he connoted outside. If, as he was constrained to think, the universe is a real universe, penetrable by mind, protective of material good, it must minister to man's spiritual needs and aspirations. It's reality must not be less but more than that most real in man—his spiritual nature. At the very heart of that greater reality he learned to know spirit with spirit must meet and find satisfaction.

If religion, then, is the spiritual approximation on man's part to something spiritually superior and satisfying, it is inevitably a merely provisional approximation. Since man as a spiritual entity is ever subject to change, capable of continued development, such must be his conceptions of that Supreme Reality he can at the best so dimly envisage. The very names he gives to it are so many milestones marking his spiritual progress and his attempts in words to render his dawning sense of spiritual reality. If he cannot find out the Almighty unto perfection he cannot evade the compulsion to continue the quest, and to give it ever more adequate registration in advancing thought and life.

This is true of all religions, since all are concerned with Reality. This is, I believe, pre-eminently true of the Christian religion. The onus is definitely laid by Christ upon every disciple to make the reality within himself approximate ever more completely to the Reality he regards as God. "Ye therefore shall be perfect even as your Heavenly Father is perfect." The words are sufficiently familiar, but is their import fully realised? Man must be thought of as a developing reality, and as such in his essential being. All that constitutes him man, the aggregation of all his powers and faculties needs to be enlisted and enriched in the reaching out after the Supreme Reality, God.

Only too often have the partial and the paltry posed as Religion. The emphasis has

been placed on right thinking as if this were the "Open Sesame" to all spiritual reality. A meaningless and often mischievous emotionalism has been encouraged, as if the narrow gate of feeling were the main portal to the spiritual paradise. And last, but not least of these one-sided representations of religion, is that which views it solely as a calendar of good deeds Let a man's acts be right, it matters not what he believes, it is claimed. Emphatically it does matter. For man must not be divided against himself if he is to attain to reality. To deny human intelligence its legitimate rights or to abrogate its claims even in the interests of the best morality is a profound mistake. Only by the co-ordinating and consecrating of all that is essentially human can we perfect the instrument that attains to the divine.

There follows from this something intensely practical and personal for each and all. Particularly do I commend it to those who call themselves Unitarian. More than once I have heard people described, or heard them describe themselves, as "finished Unitarians." It is a contradiction in terms. The only Unitarians who are finished, so far as this life is concerned, are the dead. For all others, nay for all truly Christian, the only fitting mood is that of Paul: "Not that I have already attained, or am already made perfect. But I press on." Is our human nature, in all its totality, enriching the religion we profess, and thereby more adequately approximating our inherent reality to the reality of God? Mark you, the totality of our powers. Not our minds alone, needful as these are for the fashioning of our best thought of God; not our emotions only, desirable as it it that these should be consecrated to His praise; not even our goodwill, essential as it is to serve the cause of supreme good. But all these, the constituents of the essentially and completely human, make us real, and commensurate with their direction and consecration will be our understanding of, and our approach to, the hope and haven of religion, God Himself.

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BELFAST.

## DOMESTIC MISSION.

All our organisations are actively engaged on their respective programmes for the winter season, with the purpose of providing education, entertainment and social fellowship for all who may wish to share in our work. To give details would go beyond the space at our disposal, so we just mention a few features each month. Following last year's precedent, when two Sunday school concerts were held, the first of this season was successfully carried through on November 4th. The teachers spared no pains in preparation of the pupils, whose performance was some reward, for the various items drew from the large audience enthusiastic appreciation. A sketch entitled "The Fairies," an action song, "The Trees," and "The Rocky Mountaineers" were of special attractiveness. The Debating and Literary Society have spared no pains in providing noted speakers Mr. Harry Midgley, M.P., on "The European Situation," and Mr. J. W. A. Jenkins, M.A., of Stranmillis Training College, on the subject of "A New World Order," were special visitors during past month. Their addresses were of a high order, and provided ample material for thought and discussion. Table tennis, billiards, and other games draw many for entertainment and fellowship. The annual tournaments will be arranged a few weeks hence. We acknowledge with thanks the following gifts — Books from Mr. C. J. M'Kisack; parcels of clothing from Mrs. Allison, and magazines from Miss Montgomery.

## SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to the Manager, Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom hey will be gratefully acknowledged.

Aberdeen housewives never cry over spilt milk. They use a sponge.

Will our friends who see to the sale of this Magazine, kindly endeavour to get new subscribers.

**Old Presbyterian Congregation of Larne and Kilwaughter.**

(WOMEN'S LEAGUE)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16th,**

At 8 o'clock p.m.

A PROGRAMME OF

**RELIGIOUS TALKING PICTURES.**

1. Worship Film
2. Barabbas.
3. The Royal and Ancient City of Canterbury.
4. The Common Round.

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**Received:** Reviews—"Nature Lyrics," Nicol Cross, "Valley of Unemployment," "What Should We Teach the Child?" P.G. "Orthodoxy To-day," "The Greyabbey Persecution," F.H. These will appear at the earliest opportunity.

**Ravara.** — The Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday afternoon and the following Monday evening, October 25th and 26th. The Church was beautifully decorated with corn, fruit, vegetables and flowers by the ladies of the congregation. The Sunday afternoon Service was conducted by the Rev. J. Glynne Davies, Comber, whose sermon was highly appreciated. Rev. J. D. Davies officiated on Monday evening. In spite of the inclement weather, the Church was crowded on Sunday. The attendance on Monday evening was smaller. Thanks are due to the members of Moneyrea Church Choir for their assistance, and their excellent rendering of the anthem "And God Said," and to the ladies and gentlemen who attended despite wild weather, to help to make the Services a success.

**— The Unitarian and —**

**Free Christian Laymen's League.**

—:●:—

**BELFAST CHAPTER**

meets in the CENTRAL HALL, ROSEMARY STREET, at 8 p.m., Third Thursday of the month, October to May, inclusive.

**OBJECTS** (inter alia).

To encourage laymen to take a more active part in the work of the Churches.

To form a bond of union and closer co-operation between the members of the various congregations.

The Committee invite those who are not all ready members to join. The minimum subscription is 2/6, and further particulars may be obtained from—

MR. J. H. GILLILAND,
35 Rosemary St., Belfast, Hon. Sec.
MR. J. EDMONDSON, Jr., Asst. Hon. Sec.
19 Lime Street, Belfast.

"Forsyth said of the Sacraments that they are 'more than souvenirs, keepsakes. They are bequests. They are conveyances,' and 'Prayer is a gift and Sacrifice that we make; Sacrament is a gift that God makes. In prayer we go to God; in Sacrament He comes to us."—*The Principal of Mansfield.*

Michaelmas Day, is the "Festival of St. Michael and All Angels." It isinteresting to note the list of the Seven Archangels, which form a part of the Hebrew system: Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Chamuel, Jophiel and Zadkiel.

# THE QUEST FOR THE MERCIFUL.

AN IRISH STORY

By Rev. F. H. Aldhouse, M.A.

## THE QUEST COMPLETED.

I had at last reached Caer Orm, the Druid stones engraved with Ogam writing and decked with metal work towered above me grey and most venerable. As I stood between them I suddenly felt a small warm hand within my hand. The Sylan Ethlim had joined me as she had promised. Knowing her great power and her position between the gods and the fairies, I was surprised to see her as a most beautiful child with rosy cheeks, braided chestnut hair with two locks hanging on each side down to her waist and large grey eyes full of innocence and shining with lambent fire.

"To grow old in Eternity is to grow young," she said smiling, answering my unasked question."

Holding my hand we glided on, our feet not touching the ground. We passed the City of Wizards and Sorcerers 'Turoine' on our left.

"Pleasant enough people if you know them, but you do not," the Sylan said. On between the Paps of Maam we went; then Antan with its innumerable temples was before us. Space and time are but relative things on Mispec Moor. My eager desire to enter that town of the gods, made us enter in a few moments, the distance passing away before our flying feet.....

We approached a mighty temple. A god of iron, filled with fire and with a burning fiery furnace between his knees, bellowed to us, for he had a bull's head with three eyes of flame.

"Bow down, bow down to Moloch the Mighty Monarch. O, priest, bring me victims, young succulent children, place them in my burning hands that they may fall into the furnace and pass through the fire to Moloch!"

"Sir," I said, "I am not your priest, I came to find the Merciful. You are clearly not He."

The god continued to bellow, but I and the Sylan passed on.

"He is only iron filled with flame" the Sylan said and smiled.

A most majestic fane stood near. A woman veiled and wonderful with a sistrum in her hand called to us "I am Isis, I am all that was, is and shall be, and no one has lifted my veil. Come and learn of me, the secret I alone know, I am the mother of God."

I hesitated but the Sylan pulled my hand. "She is Nature," she said.

"Mother," I said, "I am your child. Pardon my passing on but I seek the Father and that you will approve," and I passed on with my guide.

I then came to a man close to a dagoba. So calm, so sweet, so noble was his bearing I could but salute him. "I am the master of the great Compassion" he said. "I teach the four noble truths. The eightfold path of righteousness, the cause and the cure of sorrow."

"He is the phantom of Gotama Buddha who is above the gods." the Sylan said. "He is merciful but you seek the Merciful."

We came to a great Byzantine Temple and a gracious form came forth from it. "I am the White Christ of Russia" he said. "The Tzar is my vassal, I am the living Icon, the heavenly Tzar. My servant and priest, in me behold your Master."

As I was about to fall on my knees the Sylan said "Look at his feet before you adore."

I did, and found them cloven.

"He is not the Merciful" the Sylan said. "The Russian Popes built him by their thoughts. He is the god of the wealthy and the masters."

We went from Temple to Temple. I saw ten false Christs, a manufactured Zoroaster and fake Hindu and Babylonian gods. There was a Jewish Temple, where a false Adonai demanded the blood of sheep and goats, and there was an Allah that was not the true one.

I said to the Sylan "I shall never find the Merciful, He is not here."

"How could He be?" she said, "These are dead gods, He lives."

"Where can I find Him?" I begged.

"You have come a great journey, you have seen every Temple in vain" she answered. "Look in your own heart." I did, and there He was, and had been during all my search.

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